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Special Committee on the Situation with regard to the Implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples

Report of the Special Committee

Chairman: Mr. Robert Guba **Aisi** (Papua New Guinea)

1. At its 11th meeting, on 22 June 2004, the Special Committee considered pending matters related to its work and took decisions on the agenda items listed below.

Question of holding a series of meetings away from Headquarters

2. The General Assembly, by paragraph 6 of its resolution 1654 (XVI) of 27 November 1961, authorized the Special Committee to meet elsewhere than at United Nations Headquarters whenever and wherever such meetings might be required for the effective discharge of its functions. By paragraph 3 (9) of the programme of action for the full implementation of the Declaration on the Granting of Independence to Colonial Countries and Peoples, contained in General Assembly resolution 2621 (XXV) of 12 October 1970, the Assembly directed the Committee to continue to hold meetings away from Headquarters as appropriate.

3. In that connection, the Special Committee decided to consider accepting such invitations as might be received in 2005 and, when particulars of such meetings become known, it would request the Secretary-General to seek the necessary budgetary provisions in accordance with established procedure.

Representation at seminars, meetings and conferences of intergovernmental and other organizations

4. The Special Committee decided to recommend to the General Assembly that the Committee continue to be represented at seminars, meetings and conferences organized by United Nations bodies and other intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations active in the field of decolonization. In keeping with its decision of 11 February 2004, the Committee would authorize its Chairman to hold

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consultations, as appropriate, concerning its participation in those meetings, as well as the level of representation, when accepting invitations. In accordance with established practice and on the basis of the principle of rotation, the Chairman would hold consultations with the Bureau members, who, in turn, would consult with the members of the Committee from their respective regional groups. The Chairman will also have consultations with a member of the Committee whose regional group is not represented in the Bureau. The Special Committee decided to recommend that the General Assembly make appropriate budgetary provisions to cover such activities in 2005.

Pattern of conferences

5. The Special Committee noted that, during the year, it had closely followed the guidelines set forth in the resolutions of the General Assembly on the pattern of conferences, in particular resolution 58/250 of 23 December 2003. By organizing its programme of work effectively and holding extensive consultations, the Committee had been able to curtail considerably the number of its formal meetings. The Special Committee decided to continue to make optimum and effective use of conference-servicing resources.

6. The Special Committee decided, taking into account the probable workload of the Special Committee for 2005, to consider holding its meetings in accordance with the following schedule:

(a) *Plenary*

February/March	As required
June/July	Up to 30 meetings (6 to 8 meetings a week)

(b) *Bureau*

February/July	20 meetings

7. It would be understood that that programme would not preclude the holding of any ad hoc meetings that might be warranted and that the Special Committee might, in early 2005, review the scheduled meetings on the basis of any new developments. The Special Committee would, subject to any directives given by the General Assembly, strive to keep its meetings to a minimum, while fulfilling its mandate.

Control and limitation of documentation

8. The Special Committee noted that, during the year, it had taken further measures to control and limit its documentation in compliance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly, in particular resolutions 34/50 of 23 November 1979, 39/68 of 13 December 1984, 51/211 B of 18 December 1996 and 58/250 of 23 December 2003. The Special Committee, consistent with the goal of limiting documentation, decided to continue to streamline its report to the Assembly.

9. At its 7th meeting, on 16 June 2004, the Special Committee decided to further limit its documentation and no longer issue as separate documents the resolutions adopted by the Special Committee during its substantive session, thus achieving further savings in costs related to the publication of its official documents.

10. By its resolution 50/206 B of 23 December 1995, the General Assembly approved the recommendation of the Special Committee to replace its verbatim records by summary records. Having reviewed the need for such records, the Special Committee decided to maintain its summary records.

Question of the list of Territories to which the Declaration is applicable

11. The Special Committee decided to continue consideration of the question at its next session, subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-ninth session.

Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism

12. Noting that the Plan of Action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, referred to in its resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000 and contained in the annex to the report of the Secretary-General,[1] provided for the holding of seminars alternately in the Caribbean and the Pacific regions, as well as at United Nations Headquarters, and subject to any directives that the General Assembly might give at its fifty-ninth session in this regard, the Special Committee decided to organize in 2005 a seminar in the Caribbean region, to be attended by representatives of all Non-Self-Governing Territories.

13. The Special Committee decided further to recommend inviting United Nations organs, agencies and institutions to apprise the Secretary-General of the actions they have taken in implementation of General Assembly resolution 55/146 of 8 December 2000 and to submit a report to the Assembly at its sixtieth session, subject to any directives that the Assembly might give at its fifty-ninth session with regard to the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism.

Participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee

14. The Special Committee decided to recommend that the participation of representatives of Non-Self-Governing Territories in the work of the Special Committee at Headquarters, as recommended by the Plan of Action for the Second International Decade for the Eradication of Colonialism, should continue to be facilitated through the reimbursement by the United Nations of the expenses relating to their participation under the terms of the guidelines amended by the Committee and approved by the General Assembly at its forty-eighth session. In that regard, the Special Committee decided to consider the guidelines at its plenary meetings with a view to amending them further, where appropriate.

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[1] A/56/61.